commitment to a nuclear weapons-free world. While our commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is well-known, where necessary in the light of our national interests, our nuclear policy will be re-evaluated.

The situation in some parts of India's immediate neighbourhood continues to be uncertain in security terms. It is regrettable that Pakistan continues to instigate terrorism against India. We call upon Pakistan to respond constructively to our repeated offers to resolve all outstanding issues bilaterally.

There will be no compromise on our country's vital security concerns. The programme of indigenous development of our defence capability in terms of research and acquisitions will continue and be reinforced in the light of our security needs. We will stress a coordinated approach to national security by revitalising the structure and enhancing the status of the National Security Council.

We repose full confidence in the capability of the Indian armed forces to defend the nation and will do whatever is necessary to maintain and enhance this capability. I am sure honourable Members join me in commending the armed forces for their professionalism and dedication. Recognizing their invaluable contribution, Government is committed to taking all possible steps to promote their welfare. We cannot forget the large community of our ex-servicemen. They have rendered valuable services to the nation and deserve our special consideration. The Government will establish a Sainik Kalyan Foundation with a suitable endowment to take care of their rehabilitation and welfare.

The country is faced with a number of crucial challenges as we stand on the threshold of the next century. The eleventh Lok Sabha will have the hounour of contributing to the task of piloting the country to the next century.

My good wishes are with you in this historic task.

JAI HIND

12.35 hrs.

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of six of our former collegues, namely, Sarvashri Govind Das Richhariya, Tarun Kanti Ghosh, Onkar Lal Berwa, Hukam Chand Kachwai, Ram Swarup and Prakash Koko Brahm Bhatt.

Dr. Govind Das Richhariya was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Jhansi Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1971-77.

He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1984-89.

An active political and social worker, Dr. Richhariya served as President of Jhansi Zila Parishad during 1961-70 and Vice-Chairman of Khadi Gramodyog Commission, Mumbai, during 1980-85. He took keen interest in the spread of education and was instrumental in establishing many primary and high schools in his area and arranged financial help for higher education for talented students belonging to Scheduled Castes and weaker sections of the society. He also established libraries and physical training centres to encourage the youth. Dr. Richhariya contributed some articles on industrial development and other allied subjects and authored a book entitled ``Bundelkhand Ke Vikas Ke Liye Awashyak Sujhav".

Dr. Govind Das Richhariya Passed away at Jhansi on 18 March, 1996 at the age of 76 years.

Shri Tarun Kanti Ghosh was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha from Barasat Parliamentary constituency of West Bengal during 1984-89.

Earlier, he had been a Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly and had served as a Minister in the State during 1952-67 and 1972-77.

A veteran political leader, Shri Ghosh was the Chairman and Managing Director of Amrit Bazar Partika - Jugantar group of publications of Calcutta.

Shri Tarun Kanti Ghosh passed away on 24 March, 1996 at Calcutta at the age of 77 years.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa was a Member of Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha representing Kota Parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan during 1962-67, 1967-70 and 1971-77.

A dedicated political and social worker, Shri Berwa associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of labourers and worked hard for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Berwa made valuable contributions to the proceedings of the House and served as a Member on various Parliamentary Committees of the House and Consultative Committes of Ministries.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa passed away at Kota on 10 April, 1996 at the age of 80 years.

Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai was a Member of Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha representing Dewas, Ujjain and Morena Parliamentary constituencies of Madhya Pradesh during 1962-67, 1967-70, 1971-77 and 1977-79 respectively.

Shri Kachwai was a dedicated political and social worker and associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of labourers. He was imprisoned several times in connection with political movements. A widely travelled person, he worked hard for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

An active parliamentariar, Shri Kachwai made valuable contribution to the proceedings of the House and served as Member on various Parliamentary Committees of the House.

Shri Kachwai passed away at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh on 21 April, 1996 at the age of 63 years.

Shri Ram Swarup was a Member of Third to Fifth Lok Sabha representing Robertsganj Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1962-77.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952-57

A dedicated political and social worker, Shri Ram Swarup was associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of the working class. He worked hard for upliftment of down-trodden and weaker sections of the society.

He took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and was a Member of Estimates Committee during 1970

Shri Ram Swarup passed away in New Delhi on 2 May, 1996 at the age of 70 years.

Shri Prakash Koko Brahm Bhatt was a member of Ninth Lok Sabha representing Baroda Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat during 1989-91.

Earlier he was a member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly during 1985-89 and Vice-President, Zila Panchayat, Vadodara in 1987

Shri Bhatt took keen interest in Parliamentary proceedings and served on a number of Parliamentary Committees including the Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Consultative Committees attached to Ministries.

Shri Prakash Koko Brahm Bhatt passed away on 11th May, 1996 at an early age of 45 years.

We mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

12.40½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

12.42 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

The Arbitration and Conciliation Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 11 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 26-3-1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :

(1) A copy each of the following Ordinance (Hindi and English Versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :

(i) The Arbitration and Conciliation Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 11 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 26th March, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto in English Version only.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3/96]

(ii) The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscelianeous provisions (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 12 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 26th March, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto in English Version only.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4/96]

(iii) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 13 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 27th March, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto in English Version only.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5/96]

(iv) The Employees provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1996 (No 14 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 27th March.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6/96]

(v) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 15 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 27th March, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto in English version only.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7/96]

(vi) The Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Second Ordinance, 1996 (No. 16 of 1996) promulgated by the President on the 27th March, 1996.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8/96]